



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 22, 1996

Mr. Scott A. Durfee
General Counsel
Office of the District Attorney
Harris County
201 Fannin, Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77002-1901

OR96-1227

Dear Mr. Durfee:

Your predecessor has asked whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 30555.

The Harris County District Attorney (the "district attorney") received a request for the district attorney's files on forgery cases involving Jerome Addison. You state that the district attorney will release information that was filed with the clerk of the criminal trial court. However, you claim that the remainder of the requested information is excepted from disclosure by sections 552.101, 552.103, 552.107, and 552.108 of the Government Code.¹

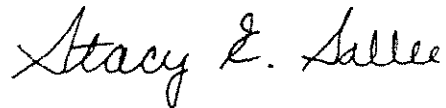
Section 552.108 excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime," and "[a]n internal record or notation of a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that is maintained for internal use in matters relating to law enforcement or prosecution." Gov't Code § 552.108; see *Holmes v. Morales*, 39 Tex. Sup. Ct. J. 781, 1996 WL 325601 (June 14, 1996). We note, however, that information normally found

¹We note that there is one document in the file that does not appear to be responsive to the request. We have marked that document for your information.

on the front page of an offense report is generally considered public.² *Houston Chronicle Publishing Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976); Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976). We conclude that, except for front page offense report information, section 552.108 of the Government Code excepts the closed files from required public disclosure.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Stacy E. Sallee
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

SES/rho

Ref.: ID# 30555

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. David Cunningham
Attorney at Law
2740 Texas Commerce Tower
600 Travis Street
Houston, Texas 77002
(w/o enclosures)

²The content of the information determines whether it must be released in compliance with *Houston Chronicle*, not its literal location on the first page of an offense report. Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) contains a summary of the types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*.